THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) No proposal for conservation of historical monuments or an cultural value to location has been received in the Archaeological Survey of India. However, the Government had received proposals from State Government of Orissa for financial assistance for establishment of Memorial Museum of eminent Freedom Fighters of Orissa, which include:

1. National Memorial on Utkalmani Gopabandu Das, Sakhigopal, Puri.
2. National Museum of Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das, Cuttack.
3. Memorial on Bagha Jain, Balasore.
4. Biju Patnaik Birth Place Museum & Library, Cuttack.
5. Memorial Museum at Khinda, (Sambalpur Distt.)
6. Memorial Museum at Ghens (Bargarh Distt.)
7. Memorial Museum at Simco (Sundargarh Distt.)

Government of India has constituted a National Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister for Human Resource Development to chalk out the programmes/ activities in commemoration of 150th Anniversary of First War of Independence 1857 and other related events. The Committee has taken a view that the State Government take up these projects from their own resources.

ATMs installed by PSU banks

1901. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) installed by public sector banks in the country, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of ATMs in metropolitan cities, semi-urban and rural area-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of ATMs in semi-urban and rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) installed by public sector banks as on 31.12.2007 in the country, State-wise is given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

(b) The break-up of ATMs installed by public sector banks along with their percentage in metro cities, semi-urban and rural areas is given in the statement-II. (*See* below)

(c) to (e) Under the extant Branch Aurhtorisation Policy, banks are encouraged to open branches/install ATMs in rural centres and underbanked districts. The policy has a distinct thrust for making available increased banking facilities in semi-urban and rural areas. RBI gives weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in underbanked areas (districts). The choice of the centre/ location of the branch/ATM is left to the discretion of the banks which the bank decide based on the business potential, commercial viability, availability of infrastructure, etc.

Statement-I

State wise Deployment of ATMs by Public Sector Banks as on 31.12.2007

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of ATMs
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6
3.	Andhra Pradesh	2270
4.	Assam	208
5.	Bihar	312
6.	Chandigarh	170
7.	Chhattisgarh	282
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	5
9.	Daman	3
10.	Delhi	1205
11.	Diu	2
12.	Goa	160
13.	Gujarat	1215
14.	Haryana	492
15.	Himachal Pradesh	152
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	73
17.	Jharkhand	245
18.	Karnataka	1815
19.	Kerala	1029
20.	Lakshwadeep	1
21.	Madhya Pradesh	919
22.	Maharashtra	2361
23.	Manipur	5
24.	Meghalaya	22
25.	Mizoram	5
26.	Nagaland	7
27.	Orissa	512
28.	Pondicherry	49
29.	Punjab	767
30.	Rajasthan	807
31.	Sikkim	18
32.	Tamil Nadu	2113
33.	Tripura	15
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1472
35.	Uttaranchal	280
36.	West Bengal	1039
	TOTAL	20047

Statement-II

The percentage of ATMs installed by Public Sector Banks in metropolitan cities, semi-urban and rural area-wise. as on December 2007

	Metro Centre	Urban Centre	Semi-urban Centre	Rural Centre	Total
No. of ATMs	6346	7524	5001	1176	20047
Percentage of ATMs	31.66	37.53	24.95	5.86	

Levying of VAT on foodgrains

1902. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied on the foodgrains under Antyodaya Anna Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the imposition of tax puts additional financial burden on the State Governments;

(d) if so, whether Government is considering waiving off taxes on the foodgrains under this scheme;

(e) whether Government is considering compensating the Sates on the levied tax; and

(f) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) State VAT, being a tax on sale or purchase of good within a State, is a State subject by virtue of Entry 54 of State List of the Constitution. The VAT rates, the list of extempted items etc. are therefore determined by the States through their respective legislations. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) has been constituted to deliberate upon and decide all matters concerning State VAT. The Empowered Committee monitors all the issues related to VAT. The Central Government has no direct role to play in this regard, except that of a facilitator.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal to compensate States separately for different items such as foodgrains. The compensation package agreed upon between the Centre and the States takes into account the total drop is VAT collection consequent on introduction of VAT.

Operation of infrastructure funds by mutual funds

1903. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per announcement in his Budget 2007-08 proposals, Mutual Funds (MFs) are permitted to launch and operate dedicated infrastructure funds;

(b) if so, the salient terms and conditions imposed, if any, for pre-and post-launch of such MF's to mop up public savings and for operation of such funds, indicating incentives such MFs are eligible to;

(c) the details of MFs granted permission to launch such funds showing volume of